

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07 NSC-10

SS-15 NEA-10 SCA-01 IO-13 AID-20 SY-10 M-03 A-01

EB-11 USSS-00 RSR-01 /179 W
----- 119196

R 181637Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8146

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SU BE

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 139570

1. WE INFORMED FONOFF JULY 18 OF US INTENTIONS AS INDICATED
PARA 1 REFTEL AND ASKED WHAT BELGIAN PLANS WERE IN REGARD TO
HAVING AN OBSERVER AT THE TRIAL. DEPAUW, FONONFF COORDINATOR
FOR TERRORISM, SAID THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, THAT
FONOFF WOULD BE SEEKING THE OPINION OF BELGIAN CHARGE IN
KHARTOUM, AND THAT THE MOST LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE TO HAVE A
SUDANESE ATTORNEY RETAINED TO OBSERVE THE TRIAL, WITH OR WITHOUT
THE BELGIAN CHARGE DEPENDING UPON THE SUDANESE GROUND RULES
WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGNERS.

2. DEPASSE, DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, ASKED ABOUT A
REPORT FIRST APPEARING IN THE US PRESS AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN
THE ARAB PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US WOULD NOT SEND AN
AMBASSADOR TO KHARTOUM UNTIL THE TERRORIST TRIAL HAD PRODUCED
SATISFACTORY RESULTS. DEPASSE ALSO REFERRED TO AN ALLEGED
WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT DENYING THAT THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE TRIAL AND THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AMBASSADOR.

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HE ASKED THAT WE INQUIRE ABOUT THE PRESS REPORTS AND THE

ALLEGED STATEMENT.

3. DEPASSE NOTED THAT BELGIUM HAD HAD NO AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN KHARTOUM AND WAS THEREFORE IN A DIFFERENT POSITION. HE ADDED THAT BELGIUM WILL NEITHER APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR NOR CLOSE DOWN ITS EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM UNTIL THE TRIAL IS OVER. IF IN HIS OPINION THE TRIAL TURNS OUT TO BE A "FARCE", DEPASSE SAID, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE POST BE CLOSED, ADDING THAT THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT BELGIAN INTEREST IN THE SUDAN TO WARRANT REPRESENTATION IN ANY CASE. BOOCHEVER

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